

# SWEETWATER 2014

Things are starting to stir along the Front Range and throughout the Rockies with what is looking to be a fantastic water year. All of us at SFG are gearing up for the upcoming season and looking to continue from a great 2014!!

conducting this project on a stretch nearly three miles in length. Historically a cattle ranch, as well as a recreational retreat, this section of the Weminuche suffered years of degradation from intensive livestock grazing and little fishery management.

## SFG – NEWS AND UPDATES

This past year was another year for the SFG team. Our projects and activities spanned several states, and garnered national attention in the New York Times and a feature on CNBC. To see more on these

Removing livestock from the riparian area yielded excellent results and was one of the first steps in an effort to bring this property and fishery back to its glory days. In order to further combat the chronic bank erosion problem, SFG re-established a favorable sinuosity via point bar manipulation and revamped degraded banks by restoring a sustainable grade and introducing natural grasses to stabilize the soil.

As a fishery, a lack of suitable habitat for all flow regimes was significantly limiting the trout population and diversity that this section was capable of supporting. By extensively redesigning the entire stream channel and creating a considerable number of new piscine structures throughout, this fishery is now able to support a blue ribbon angling experience.

**The New York Times**  
 National Edition  
 Vol. CLXXI, No. 56,383  
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2013  
 \$2.50

**Investors Restoring Ranch Land for a Profit, and a Trout Dividend**

Stanley International, a private equity firm, is buying the ranch, which is a 10,000-acre trout hatchery and ranch in Colorado. The firm is planning to restore the ranch to its former glory and sell it to investors. The ranch is currently owned by the family of the late Stanley International founder, Stanley International.

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Joe Ellis, right, with Shannon Shelton, at a Utah ranch.



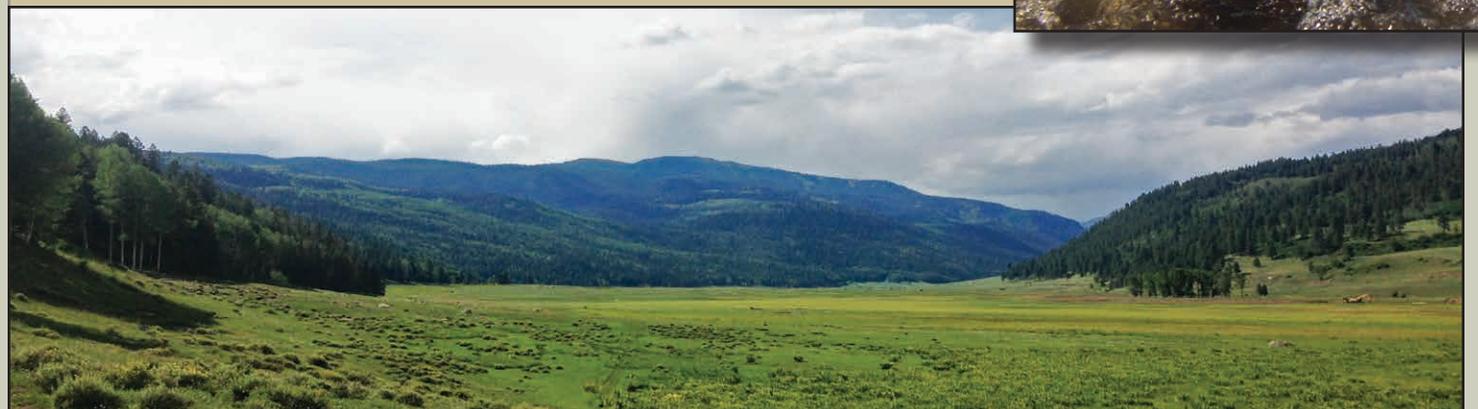
"We're not trying to plug God just trying to help things out," said Shannon Shelton.



projects along with more about our other activities visit [www.SweetwaterFisheries.com](http://www.SweetwaterFisheries.com).

**Fisheries Restoration and Enhancement – Pagosa Springs, Colorado**

Weminuche Creek meanders out of the San Juan Mountains, through a remote and scenic valley where SFG would be





Evening on the spring creek portion of the Upper Provo project. With exceptional insect productivity, but heavily overgrown and lacking structure, SFG expanded and deepened much of this reach.

### Fishery Restoration and Enhancement – Park City, Utah

With a rare 1.5 miles of river on the Upper Provo River and nearly 2.5 miles of spring creek, the potential of this property to become a premier fishing destination was overwhelming.

Due to inconsistent flows and disastrous runoff events, the suitable habitat in this section of the Upper Provo was severely limited. With great water quality and prolific insect populations that yield some of the healthiest brown trout in the country, SFG knew that habitat was the key. Months of bed-form manipulation and the introduction of both woody

and boulder structures established roughly an 800% increase in productive habitats, as well as a significant increase in spawning areas for the resident game fish of the Provo River.

With the work on the Upper Provo concluded, the SFG team shifted their focus to the spring creek that flows through the heart of the property.

Aside from previous diversions, channelization for irrigation purposes and the degrading effects of extensive cattle grazing, this small stream was in

great position to become a highly productive tributary of the Upper Provo River. Fed by numerous cold water springs and brimming with a quality freshwater shrimp population, the potential was extraordinary. SFG began work on the spring creek by redirecting the stream into its natural channel followed by adding significantly more habitat to support a trout population more reflective of the abundance of nutrients in the stream. During this work on the creek, the team also constructed 7 strategically located oxbow ponds adjacent to the spring creek in order to offer diverse fishing opportunities.

### SFG- FISH AND FORAGE

With what is shaping up to be an excellent water year, SFG is busy making sure that we have solid supplies for all of our clients for this upcoming season. Seven different strains of rainbow along with cutbows, brooks and browns ensures that we can fill the needs of anyone looking for high quality stocking. Our unique aquatic macroinvertebrate based feeding and rearing program ensures that all of our fish are the healthiest, most vibrantly colored and naturally acclimated trout available for stocking. As always, interested parties



should contact us as soon as possible to make sure that we allocate our inventory since supplies typically get tighter after late spring.

SFG also has an industry-exclusive macroinvertebrate rearing and stocking program, centered on the freshwater shrimp *Gammarus lacustris*, to boost the forage supply of any stream or pond fishery. Fathead minnows are available as well to provide a forage-fish population in stillwater fisheries, allowing all predatory fish to flourish with an ample food supply.

### A BIT ABOUT POND MANAGEMENT



On quite a few occasions over this winter season we've been contacted by pond owners looking for some help with their beloved fisheries. The most common issue we hear is that the pond is overrun with weeds and algae and seems to be

getting worse each year. Our recommendation is almost universally **aeration** and to avoid chemicals!

Lake bottom aeration is the process of introducing diffused air to the pond bottom, oxygenating and circulating pond water. Without proper aeration



circulation, ponds and lakes can become stratified, trapping toxic gases (ammonium and nitrogen) as well as decomposing organic matter to the pond bottom. Decomposing matter consumes oxygen through different biological processes, often depleting all available oxygen in this lower layer needed by fish and macroinvertebrates.

In addition to minimizing the effects of trapped toxic gasses, aeration de-stratifies the water column allowing fish and other aquatic inhabitants to occupy all areas of the water column as well as reduce the negative effects of pond turnover.

Aeration, along with SFG's innovative fisheries management techniques, afford our clients a productive and sustainable aquatic ecosystem. Contact us to learn how we can help you achieve your fishery goals!



# SWEETWATER

## FISHERIES GROUP

*Innovation in Fisheries Stewardship and Management*

Fort Collins, Colorado

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[www.SweetwaterFisheries.com](http://www.SweetwaterFisheries.com)

### A LOOK AT SFG SERVICES

#### River Restoration:

- Full-scale scientific data collection and CAD based stream design
- U.S. Army Corps and state and federal agency permitting
- Fish and macroinvertebrate habitat improvement
- Structural implementation and construction

#### Fisheries Science:

- Electrofishing population surveys and reporting
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate studies and forage base analysis
- Fishery management and consulting

#### Stream Corridor Analysis:

- Riparian plant species inventory
- Riparian identification & classification
- Riparian condition assessment
- Wetland delineation

#### Stillwater Development:

- Pond engineering and design
- Construction and lining (natural & synthetic)
- Aquatic habitat management
- Custom aeration design & installation

#### Fishery Stocking Services:

- Trophy Trout
  - Brown Trout
  - Brook Trout
  - Rainbow Trout (Multiple Species)
  - Cutthroat Trout
- Forage base stockings
  - Freshwater Shrimp (*Gammarus lacustris*)
  - Fathead Minnows (*Pimephales promelas*)



SFG conducting a fish population survey



Detailed stream corridor analysis



SFG's Freshwater Shrimp nursery